

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

NEWS RELEASE

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North Dakota byway project wins National Scenic Byway Award

Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byway's Interpretation Project receives prestigious award at recent ceremony during the National Scenic Byways 2009 Conference in Denver, Colorado.

The Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byway's Interpretation Project, "Telling the Story of the Sheyenne River Valley," received the 2009 Scenic Byway Award for Interpretation at a ceremony held Aug. 24, during the National Scenic Byways 2009 Conference in Denver, Colorado.

The Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byway's 40 individualized interpretive panels and ten attraction kiosks promote historic preservation and tell the byway's story of the relationship between people and the land. All components complement the byway's design standards. This project has provided an interpretive cohesiveness that enhances the visitor experience.

Sponsored by the America's Byways Resource Center, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the prestigious award recognizes eight projects of excellence from byway nominations across the country. Selection by a panel of byway community experts is based on four criteria, including community involvement and public outreach; partnerships; advancing the goals of the byway's corridor management plan; and, innovation.

"We hope these winning projects will inspire new efforts to preserve, protect, interpret, and promote the intrinsic qualities along America's Byways, distinctive routes designated by the National Scenic Byways Program," commented Michelle Johnson, Director of America's Byways Resource Center.

North Dakota State Byway Coordinator, Kevin Stankiewicz was also in Denver to take part in the award ceremony and stated, "The Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byway is very deserving of this award. Their interpretive project was well thought out, well executed and innovative. Their interpretive sites and visitor center are a great collaboration of time and effort that resulted in a quality product for all visitors to enjoy."

This is not the first national award for the Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byway. In 2003, the byway received the Best Practices Award for leveraging resources.

Photo attached

Caption:

The Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byway and members of the National Scenic Byway Program after the award ceremony in Denver (from left to right, Michelle Johnson- Director of America's Byways Resource Center, Becky Heise, Steve Nielson, Mary Lee Nielson, Bobby Koepplin, Ben Kubischta-NDDOT, John Kwapinski, Peter Reedijk, Susan Jurasz, Deb Koepplin, Kevin Stankiewicz-NDPRD, and Gary Jensen-FHWA Team Leader.

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